

11/24/70

Dear Dick,

I was in Wilmington for several days but couldn't get to Phila. It is a helluva job to get in touch with Howard by phone. I spent 45 minutes and then finally got a message taped to his door. He phoned me and we had a long chat, which made me feel very good about him in all ways but one. He is genuinely excited with college and has not allowed his assassination interest to interfere with it. The contrary is the situation, and that is as it should be. The one point where I'm uncomfortable was when he was talking about tlaking with other students, in their rooms and at a meeting, I and I suggested it would be good to get some girls interested in it. He parried, saying that there was talk of some of the forms going coed, and I did not press it. Once when he was here I had suggested, half jokingly, that he ought get himself a girl friend who could help him in his work. Howard is at the very best a late-developer in his interest in girls, and I think it may not be a good thing. I hope it changes, that he meets one who turns him on a bit.

While trying to get in touch with him, I did get an evidence of the petty luxuries his parents have lavished on him. When I asked information for the home phone number, so I could try and reach him Saturday night through his parents (they were out), I learned he has had his own, separate private phone at home. One for Howard, one for the family.

Together with the signs of effiminacy, I am troubled, for I ~~am~~ am very fond of Howard, full of respect for him and his ability - and potential - and would feel better with some sign of what has come to be regarded as "normal" development and "normal" attitudes. He is an especially sensitive person. I feel that if there is not this development into what at his age should be a healthy, heterosexual interest, he may soon face problems that may be troublesome for him and he may find life less of a joy than it can be.

Or, I hope the horse gets led to water soon, so that he might drink.

Hurriedly,

P.S. I think we'd best not say anything about the "planted" bullet material enclosed. I've not made mention of it to any others. I think there should be an official submission and I know the man can be hurt through his employment.